



# Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver  
Lt. Governor Patty Judge  
Lt Gen Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

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Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council Minutes  
Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
10 AM – 12 PM  
State Historical Building - Heritage Classroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor

## Attendees:

Jerome Thompson	Department of Cultural Affairs
Doug Elliot	ECICOG
Keith Greiner	Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Theresa McMahon	Iowa Department of Economic Development
Robert Grayson	Office of Energy Independence
Eric Chatman	Iowa Finance Authority
Ron Bruett	Department of Human Services
BG Tim Orr	Department of Public Defense
Dave Miller	Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Ljerka Vasiljevic	Department of Public Safety
Tom Newton	Department of Public Health
Terrence Neuzil	Iowa State Association of Counties
Stuart Anderson	Department of Transportation
Senator Rob Hogg	Senator
Joe Mowers	Iowa Workforce Development
John McCalley	Iowa Department on Aging
Megan Osweiler	Iowa League of Cities

## RIO Staff:

Lt Gen Ron Dardis	Executive Director
Emily Hajek	Chief of Staff
Jacqueline DiGiacinto	Economic Recovery Specialist
Susan Judkins Josten	Intergovernmental Affairs Director
Tina Potthoff	Public Affairs Director
Susan Dixon	Long Term Recovery Director
Annette Mansheim	Long Term Recovery Planner
Ron Randazzo	Strategic Planning Officer
Stephanie Kindred	Administrative Assistant
Lynn R Zook-Slagg	Executive Assistant

## Not in attendance:

Department of Agriculture  
Iowa Utilities Board

Board of Regents  
IGOV  
Representative Tom Schueller  
Representative Pat Grassley  
RIAC  
Department of Natural Resources

Observers:

Sue Lerdal	LSA
John Benson	Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Teri Rosonke	Iowa Finance Authority
Ben Rogers	Linn County Supervisor
Teresa Kehoe	IA Senate

Media:

Janean Beck	Iowa Public Radio
Perry Beem	Des Moines Register
Richard Lee	WHO Radio

**Welcome: Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis**

General Dardis welcomed everyone to the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council meeting. It was stated that it had been awhile since there had been a meeting, so he appreciated them taking the time out of their busy schedules to make the 2008 recovery effort a top priority.

Much has happened since they had met in December. A lot of progress had been made when it came to the programs that were created in response to the state's largest disaster.

Some items worth mentioning include the following:

- To date, more than \$3.9 billion in funding has been allocated for more than 30 different programs, more than \$3 billion has been approved and more than \$1.15 billion has been spent.
- When it comes to buyouts, Iowa has nearly 3,000 buyouts and demolitions to work through. Of those 3,000 buyouts – about 900 have been identified as FEMA or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) buyouts. More than 50 percent (494) of those properties have been acquired to date and almost 20 percent (174) have been demolished so far.
- There were about 600 FEMA temporary mobile homes brought into the state after the disasters...now only 14 remain.

- Recovery programs have funded the building of about 250 new homes and nearly 300 more are under construction, with more on the way.
- Business programs have assisted thousands of businesses with more than \$40 million in funds for rebuilding and reopening.
- More than \$1.7 billion has been committed to thousands of infrastructure projects with \$400 million already spent. There are currently more than 13,000 public assistance projects in some stage of construction or application review across the state of Iowa.

In addition to the progress numbers, the Rebuild Iowa Office in conjunction with the partners in the room today -- continue to expand on outreach and education activities.

In March, the RIO began a Civic Organization Tour in communities across Iowa. Presentations in front of groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, serve to remind Iowans of the state's continuing efforts to recover from the floods, storms and tornadoes of 2008. The presentations educate citizens on ways they can protect themselves and their communities from future flooding. We've given presentations to civic clubs in Atlantic, Winterset, Cedar Falls, Wapello and Sioux City-- and more are planned through May.

In March, the RIO also worked with the Iowa Insurance Division (IID), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), National Weather Service and FEMA to promote the second annual Flood Awareness Month in Iowa.

More than 35 media interviews took place around the state. On March 4, 2010, Gov. Culver signed a proclamation making March Flood Awareness Month. Partner agencies disseminated information about the National Flood Insurance Program, tips for how people can be better prepared for the next disaster, and updates from the National Weather Service on flood warnings and risks.

Also, in order to recognize the upcoming two-year anniversary dates for the disasters...the Rebuild Iowa Office will soon be recognizing Iowans who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in this recovery effort. The Rebuild Iowa Award for Service will be presented to Iowans across the state that have dedicated countless hours of service to this recovery. Applications will be available in May and the awards will be presented in July.

In regards to today's meeting, we have a lot of business to cover. First on the agenda is Susan Judkins who will provide us with an overview of what happened during the 2010 Legislative Session and how it might impact your department or agency.

Then, we will go around the room to get your input. We want to know where your agencies stand on recovery activities and how you would like to move forward with additional disaster-related legislation.

After that, Emily Hajek, our Chief of Staff, will provide the group with an update on other Rebuild Iowa Office activities that have occurred or will take place in the near future. And lastly, we'll wrap up with Ron Randazzo and Annette Mansheim from our Office, who will share more information about the state's first ever **long-term** recovery exercise which will take place in June. Please pay close attention to the details about this exercise because we'll be asking each of your agencies to actively participate.

He thanked them for their continued support and cooperation in helping Iowa recover from the 2008 disasters.

### **Legislative Recap: Susan Judkins Josten**

Susan reviewed the Legislation that was passed in the 2010 session, a power point was used, and handout was given to attendees.

There were many updates and information to cover due to the busy legislative session. Susan Judkins Josten, RIO Intergovernmental Affairs Director, took time to thank those who helped during the legislative session. Susan thanked Senator Hogg and the legislative liaisons who worked with the Rebuild Iowa Office on many issues. She also praised the efforts of all agencies that were a part of the success of the session. All have made an effort to keep the lines of communications open which has proven to be beneficial.

Many departments worked together to cooperate and recommend that state standards should match FEMA standards for weather safe rooms.

During the 2008 disasters, Iowa's percentage of homeowners who had flood insurance was relatively low compared to other states. Moving forward, our state needs to encourage more homeowners to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The voucher system used by the Long Term Recovery Committees and the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program was very successful. In disasters, many victims cannot afford to go out and buy goods or services and then be reimbursed. This created a way for disaster-impacted individuals to obtain the goods or services they needed without the out-of-pocket expense.

RIO focused on three legislative proposals for 2010:

- Establish a permanent case management system (HF2422 signed 3/22/10)

- Establish Smart Planning (SF2389 signed 4/26/10)
- Watershed/Floodplain Management (HF2459 signed 4/7/10 and HF2531 not yet signed)

### **Safe room best practices (HF705)**

“The State Building Code Commissioner, in cooperation with the Department of Public Defense, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Rebuild Iowa Office, shall review and assess best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings, safe rooms, and storm shelters to reduce the risk of personal injury from tornadoes and other severe weather”

- DPS, RIO, DNR, HSEMD, DAS, DHS cooperated in recommending that state rules align with FEMA standards
- The rule establishing safe room standards takes effect July, 2010, but only applies to construction that occurs on or after January 1, 2011.

### **Flood insurance incentives (HF759)**

“The commissioner of insurance, in collaboration with the rebuild Iowa office and the homeland security and emergency management division of the Iowa department of public defense, shall develop recommendations on policies and incentives to expand the availability and procurement of flood insurance in the state.”

- IID, RIO, HSEMD, DNR
- HSB512 and SSB3089: Recommendations regarding real estate disclosure forms and insurance applications were considered but did not pass

### **Floodplain Management Recommendations (HF756)**

“The council shall develop recommendations for policies and funding promoting a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on this state's residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality.”

- Progress made in HF2459 and HF2531
- To be addressed under RIAC Goal #9

### **All 12 RIAC Recommendations Received Legislative Consideration in 2010:**

#### **Recommendation #1 - Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding**

- HF2422 helps make individual case management system implemented after 2008 disasters permanently available for future disaster victims. (Signed 3/22/10)

- HF2294 utilizes local long-term recovery committees established via case management system to administer a voucher program to distribute individual assistance funds in smaller disasters. (Signed 3/22/10)

**Recommendation #2 - State and local governments should prioritize availability and affordability of adequate, affordable housing**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains a provision authorizing Iowa Finance Authority to utilize Housing Trust Fund monies to support the Iowa Mortgage Help Initiative. (Not Yet Signed)

**Recommendation #3 - The state should provide incentives for Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.**

- HF2422 establishes a Business Disaster Recovery Task Force to outline recommendations for business disaster recovery. (Signed 3/22/10)
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$20K for the development of a business assistance internet site by IDED and \$5M for the development and funding of a small business loan program – Save our Small Businesses Fund. (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #4 - The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction \$72.2 million in one-time disaster funding appropriated for infrastructure:**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains \$4.5 million for Linn County's administrative building and \$2.1 million for the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids. (Signed )
- HF2389 (RIIF Bill) contains IJOBS funding for projects in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Des Moines, Polk County, Mason City, Davenport, Waterloo, Iowa City, Belmond, Norwalk, Jesup, and West Union. Plus \$30 million for a Disaster Prevention Program (see RIAC Goal #8) and \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention (see RIAC Goal #9.) (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #5 - The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) provides more flexibility on dates that a bond issue vote may be scheduled in disaster-impacted communities. (Signed )
- SF2310 (Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund) outlines implementation of a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution. (Signed 4/23/10)

**Recommendation #6 - The state must invest in local emergency management agencies to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.**

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010

**Recommendation #7 - The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.**

- SF 2380 (Tax Credit Changes) retains the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program but reduces its cap from \$50M to \$45M beginning 7/1/12. (Signed 4/15/10)
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$12M for Community Attraction and Tourism grant funding and \$4M for River Enhancement Community Attraction grant funding, plus funding for Main Street projects (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #8 - The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.**

- SF 2389 (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning.(Signed 4/26/10)
- **Ten Smart Planning Principles**
  1. Collaboration. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions.
  2. Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency. Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions.
  3. Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy. Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency.
  4. Occupational Diversity. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities.
  5. Revitalization. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
  6. Housing Diversity. Expand Housing Opportunities & Choices.
  7. Community Character. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place.

8. Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands.
  9. Sustainable Design. Green Building & Infrastructure Design.
  10. Transportation Diversity. Variety of Transportation Choices.
- Comprehensive Planning Guidance for cities and counties
  - Smart Planning Task Force to develop statewide planning goals, evaluate and develop incentives for comprehensive planning, develop a model for regional comprehensive planning, and develop recommendations for state comprehensive planning programs
  - \$30 Million Disaster Prevention Program created with IJOBS funding, eligibility contingent on following Smart Planning.

Much of the credit for Smart Planning should be given to Annette Mansheim and Aaron Todd from the Rebuild Iowa Office. They created a concept paper called the Green Paper to generate Smart Planning recommendations from other agencies.

The question was asked if there are any agencies that don't look at floodplains when they consider projects. When agencies participate in projects, do they look at the risk due to flood plain location?

The biggest issue with projects within the floodplain is there might be some pushback until the state can get better flood maps. It's hard to regulate projects within the 500 year flood plain if the available flood maps aren't accurate. Although the flood map may not be perfect now, it's what our state has to work with for the time being.

One of the things that need to be considered when awarding tax credits and considering National Register eligible properties is whether the structure is located within the flood plain. Do rules allow the historic properties to be fixed following a flood? Will the buildings be fixed in way that the investment doesn't go to waste when it floods again?

That would be something that Cultural Affairs will be looking at prior to the 2011 Legislative Session.

**Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) generated 16 policy recommendations



- SF2316 addressed 12 policy recommendations and passed the Senate but did not pass the House Committee
- **Just 5 policy recommendations PASSED in other bills:**
  - HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) requires the WRCC and others *to extent feasible* to **1)** work on establishing an Iowa chapter of State Floodplain Managers Association, **2)** education and **3)** marketing for flood risks and floodplain awareness. (Signed )
  - HF2459 (Watershed Bill) **4)** authorizes that funding be sought for pilot watershed projects involving IDALS, DNR and the Iowa Flood Center, and **5)** outlines potential watershed governance via Watershed Management Authorities (Signed 4/7/10)
- **Policy recommendations included in SF2316 but NOT PASSED in 2010:**
  - Regulate the .2% (500-year) floodplain (or a model ordinance)
  - Establish storm water standards (or best practices)
  - Enhance safety for critical facilities (require continued operation or safe cessation during 500-year flood event)
  - Hydrological tiling study
  - WRCC to make watershed management recommendations by 11/15/10
  - Integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds
  - Update conservation practice criteria to reflect changing precipitation
- **Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) made 9 funding recommendations**
  - Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
  - HF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention. (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #10 - The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology, implementing the mapping process as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.**

- DNR continues to coordinate this effort through CDBG funding
- The Iowa Flood Center will continue to play a major role with a specific allocation of existing CDBG funds in SF2389 (RIIF Bill). (Signed 4/26/10)

**Recommendation #11 - The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.**

- SF2367 appropriates \$647,014 to support RIO during FY11 (Not Yet Signed)
  - 12 FTEs were maintained
  - Additional RIO funding is provided through federal sources

**Recommendation #12 - All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.**

A big “thank you” to members of the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council for your important role in addressing this recommendation!

The Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council continued activity ensures agencies are communicating with each other evaluating our state is preparing itself for future disasters.

What floodplain maps are available and what agencies would be a contact for those maps? Are the floodplain maps available online?

The Department of Natural Resources is coordinating the floodplain mapping process. Lori McDaniel is the head of that section and would be the head contact. FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps are available online as well.

**Agency/Departmental Legislative Recap**

John McCalley, Iowa Department on Aging:

The Iowa Department on Aging has conference calls every month and can ask if there are any recommendations during the next call.

Joe Mowers, Iowa Workforce Development:

None

Senator Rob Hogg:

Iowa needs to take more preventative measures to lessen the impact of future disasters. There is a high level of trauma that a disaster on this level can cause and we need to prevent that if possible in the future. If you go back to 1965, recommendations that were made after the floods were left on a shelf and not acted on.

Our state, businesses, and individuals have invested millions of dollars in areas that are prone to flood. Iowa needs to spend a little money now for preventative measures rather than do nothing and pay more to rebuild. There has been a great amount of progress on the Iowa Flood Center. Agencies should get acquainted with the resources

they have to offer. There should be a website with all floodplain maps to see if and where a flood could occur.

The communities suffered from the disasters and continue to suffer. Senator Hogg encouraged all agencies to continue to do periodic outreach to impacted communities. Cedar Rapids had trouble running itself before the flood. If you pile a flood on top of that, it was a managerial nightmare for the city.

Many impacted individuals felt like the state and federal governments were slow in their response. Also, with the complex rules and restrictions for assistance, there was a growing level of distrust and resentment.

Stuart Anderson, Department of Transportation:

The DOT is pleased with the Smart Planning language and look forward to participating. The lack of planning language on the books is what was needed to help. They don't currently have any new initiatives.

Terrence Neuzil, Iowa State Association of Counties:

The problems for the business community following the disasters were huge. Short term temporary assistance would be helpful for the business community following future disasters. Following the 2008 disasters, some local chambers of commerce were able to come up with some short term money for businesses.

During the early stages of flooding, the state had an opportunity to secure Interstate 380 and make it passable. However, there was difficulty getting federal and counties to make it a priority. Having so many impassable roads was a concern when you are not able to get to individuals. It should be a priority to fortify arterial road systems to withstand flood levels.

Also during the last two major disasters, the Corps of Engineers had water go over the top of the reservoir. It is obvious that the state prevented additional problems when the water stayed within the reservoir. It raises the question of whether the state should release more water in the spring. How does that impact land such as lower level farm ground? Is there a cost/benefit analysis that could be done to decide whether or not to release more water from the reservoirs?

Ben Rogers, Linn County Board of Supervisors:

Thank Rio and the Coordinating Council and what you have done for Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and the state as a whole. He feels both and have been an invaluable resource for Linn County and Cedar Rapids.

Senator Rob Hogg:

It would have by far been worse without the help that was received by the State and the RIO. It was necessary for Cedar Rapids, as well as other cities, to recover. In the long-run, we need to figure out what the state's role is for future disasters. It would be

unfortunate to have individuals or businesses not flood-proof a building due to a lack of resources.

In the long run we need to find out what the state's role is in funding. If you want every city building built green and every school to have a safe room how would it be decided on who pays for that? Would it be covered by property taxes? The state is a permanent partner in helping local governments in their efforts. Linn County would have been scrounging without the State assistance.

Tom Newton, Iowa Department of Public Health:

One important change that resulted from the 2009 Legislative Session was the Iowa Public Health Modernization Act. This created a basic set of standards for public health, basic services, and local board accreditation. This year, public health is facing some obstacles in forming regional health departments.

The Iowa Department of Public Health still has funding from Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) for substance abuse and home visits, he asked that if there was a way to get the word out to more people for this assistance please feel free to do so.

Ljerka Vasiljevic, Department of Public Safety:

Ljerka has seen buildings that are exactly the same being built with different standards and with little or no building codes. Building Codes should be the same statewide. Iowa needs a minimum state standard for any publicly occupied building. Residential buildings would not be covered by the fire marshal's office. Adoption of state building codes and construction codes will make buildings safer from fire, flood, or any disaster and safer for its occupants. Also, inspections should be required to ensure the buildings are safe and up to code.

Dave Miller, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management:

The state has made funding work that isn't normally used for disasters. RIO found a way to marry programs with the need. HSEMD is looking at federal funding and how it might impact Iowa in the future. He was also interested in following up on legislation from last year, what is going on with all of the different updates; Iowa he believes may have been out in front of the Federal Government. Like the National Recovery Framework-and what the Governor, the state and RIO has done.

At the federal level of government, more time and money is spent mitigating yesterday's disaster than looking forward to the next disaster that will occur. When considering protection of critical facilities, a benefit/cost analysis must be met there are several other issues as well, \$150 million in unmet needs that FEMA may not cover. There have to be other ways to get funding for those items. In the protection of critical facilities, it may become a regulatory issue. By nature, many critical facilities are built in the flood plain or proximity to the floodplain. How can we flood proof them? Also, there are many critical facilities that don't have emergency generators and it costs much more to assist them every time there is a disaster.

When NRCS funded programs run out of money how do we get funding for those programs when they run out? Is there a uniform building code that could make federal funding more available to the State? In 2008 a fire station was destroyed, FEMA will pay to move it, demo rebuild issues come when the area it was built to serve is now affected by the building being moved. How do we as a state fill the gaps?

The structure of Emergency Management in the state needs to be evaluated. Critical management and records management; where and how they are stored needs to be revisited. Records that citizens and communities rely on are put in harm's way and cannot be recreated

Adjutant General Tim Orr, Department of Public Defense/IANG:

There is a four prong plan, as the IANG reorganizes; there will be a task force created on what to look for in the next disaster, tornadoes, earthquakes, next flood.

In February a mutual state agreement conference was held with 13 states to discuss filling the gaps getting left with all of the troops deploying and to ensure there is coverage when a disaster occurs.

When there is a natural disaster, Emergency Managers get tired and wear out. The Guard has put together a program to bring back retired National Guard individuals to help the staff of those impacted communities. This is not an effort to take over the job of the local Emergency Managers, but to help assist those communities

Ron Bruett, Department of Human Services:

The individual case management implementation will be based on resources given by the legislature. The RIO person is available to help.

Megan Osweiler, Iowa League of Cities:

Felt it was very important to get everyone to the table to discuss watershed planning and the resources that are needed.

Eric Chatman, Iowa Finance Authority:

He had nothing to add announce that the next I-Jobs 2 board will meet on May 5<sup>th</sup> on the new rules in Council Bluffs, and that another meeting will be held in June meeting in Coralville for approval for the new rules.

Rob Grayson, Office of Energy Independence:

There office was very happy to see the smart planning pass through legislation they also still have money available from the federal stimulus. The deadline for cities and counties is May 1<sup>st</sup>. A Request for Proposal will go out soon to assist OEI in allocating the other funds available.

Diane Foss, Iowa Department of Economic Development:

Stated that when the flood occurred in 2008, IDED had no legislative language available at all and thankfully last session had established some. Legislatively IDED had never had access to some of the funds before, now they have been able to give to the COG's and Cities and feel they are ready for the next disaster.

There are some ideas to get additional funding available with the disasters in the Northeast, and is working with RIO and other agencies to continue to move forward.

Gary Schwartz, Dept of Education:

Schools are looking at infrastructures much more closely. Waverly-Shell Rock closed a school building that was located in a floodplain and is working to finish up a safe room in their school

In many small communities, the school is the main building that everyone would go to during a tornado. Most architects integrate the safe rooms in to multipurpose rooms in the building. The process does take quite a lot of time working with FEMA and can delay a project up to a year. These delays can create major issues with the school year.

Dave Miller stated the delays stem from the fact that it's mitigation money not recovery money. The discussion at federal level is it's broken due to the process taking so long and stated that the regulatory pieces are hard to get through.

Terrance Neuzil stated that a safe room was nixed due to the amount of time that it was taking and would have taken to get the funding to build.

Gary Schwartz stated that they have been encouraging building more energy efficient and more "green" and Education in Iowa hasn't been set back by disasters. Floodplain as far as Cedar Rapids is concerned some of the administration building is in a flood zone and they are still in trailers. They have been seeing schools not building in flood plains and building safe rooms.

Senator Hogg said that they are building new, but in the mean time they are still operating from trailers.

Keith Greiner, Iowa College Student Aid Commission:

There is minimal assistance going out anymore from the Iowa College Aid Commission. A year ago, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission was attempting to get more authority to move money around following a disaster. He didn't think there was anything established for them to move money faster through the process. The funding they utilized pushed the envelope as to what was actually in code. Something that also came up in another meeting is that all of branches of government should have Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government Plans

(COOP/COG), all Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches all need to have it in place.

Dave Miller stated that records management is an issue as far as where they are stored, how they are stored, are they stored electronically if so are they backed up? There are critical records that go along with the COOP/COG.

Keith Greiner stated that he hopes that RIO does not sunset end of fiscal year 2011. The state does not know when the next disaster may occur so having RIO around in some capacity would be beneficial.

Doug Elliott, East Central Iowa Council of Governments:

The funding streams and buckets automatically create inequity and disenfranchisement. It takes months to reestablish a relationship with victims. ECICOG has worked with a \$1.6 million revolving loan fund. All but three hundred thousand dollars has gone to disaster-impacted businesses. It's been an effective resource. The state should look at existing revolving loan funds as a potential resource for future disasters

Smart planning legislation was a big excitement for the COGS. Disaster Recovery taskforces from values fund was to provide matching funds for the locals

Jerome Thompson-Department of Cultural Affairs:

Their department will be looking at preservation tax credits, it was re-created from the ground up in 2009 and currently they are working out some issues, it came up too late in legislative session for it to go through so they are trying to establish a retroactive plan to get the funding used in the time frame allotted.

The Council of State archives received a grant from FEMA; they are now at the stage where they will be making some training courses available locally for public entities in the next year. This is the second year of the Iowa Conservation Preservation Consortium and they are geo locating public libraries, historical societies and providing that information back to those locals to use for planning purposes.

Gary Schwartz said that there are technology bunkers are in Iowa, one is in Cedar Rapids. The second one is in Heartland AEA area...its key for records management and keeps it protected in a disaster.

**Rebuild Iowa Office Activities Update: Emily Hajek**

The Rebuild Iowa Office press team has been working on the "Working to Recover" press releases. They highlight efforts toward flood recover and what resources are available to impacted individuals. If anyone has ideas such as specific programs, people, or organization for future "Working to Recover" press releases, please contact the RIO Communications Team.

These press releases help keep flood recovery on people's minds. Many people don't realize recovery from the 2008 disasters is still going on. RIO wants to make sure all creative efforts get recognized.

The Rebuild Iowa Office worked with Senator Joe Bolkcom on a flood symposium in March. This event brought together those interested in flood plain management, climate change, water flow, and water levels. RIO is taking this discussion on the road and more information will be available on the RIO website. This information will be provided at five different communities throughout the state.

We have also been working with EPA on different projects; they are using the State of Iowa as pilot program for climate change and smart growth.

The Rebuild Iowa Office released the latest Quarterly Report and would encourage all council members to look at it. The office is also working with IDED on an infrastructure strategy for the state. Both offices hope to bring together agencies to see what the state needs to do in terms of infrastructure in the long term. RIO is also preparing the third round of Speak Up Iowa surveys. The office targeted a list of one thousand businesses and individuals in order to get more of their input to see what their experiences have been

### **State All-Hazards Recovery Plan Table Top Exercise: Ron Randazzo & Annette Mansheim**

The Rebuild Iowa Office will be sun setting a little over a year from now. RIO has a responsibility to formalize roles and prepare other agencies to take over where the RIO leaves off. The RIO staff has been considering how to do just that. RIO, along with other agencies, will be participating in the State All-Hazards Recovery Plan Table Top Exercise. Iowa does have a Disaster Response Plan in place and RIO did want to acknowledge that. The Rebuild Iowa Office and HSEMD are excited because this is the only response exercise being conducted in the nation.

The State All-Hazards Recovery Plan Table Top Exercise will be discussion-based and will be facilitated by HSEMD. The purpose is to talk about the communications process and what is required for a state to put a response plan into effect. RIAC members, legislators, RIO members, and representatives from state and federal agencies will be invited to participate. Invitations will be sent to all observers and participants in the near future.

Participants and observers should RSVP for the tabletop exercise by May 17<sup>th</sup>. An After Action Report about what went right, what went wrong, and what should be changed for the next time will be compiled and distributed. Hopefully by December 30<sup>th</sup>, Iowa's Major Disaster Long-Term Recovery Plan will be finalized. The ultimate goal is to



ensure a tabletop exercise will be completed annually or biennially regardless of the administration.

During the December meeting of this group, each person was asked to provide comment on what recovery goals still need to be accomplished.

Some of the questions & comments from that discussion include,

- Chuck Seel asked if there a tabletop exercise for disaster recovery (not just response) to maintain the state's preparedness.
- General Orr stated that it is imperative to capture the lessons learned from the 2008 disasters and look at what a model would be for the future.
- Dave Miller input was to document the work that the RIO has done, who has been involved in the process, how it needs to be maintained, and how to sustain the investment.

In addition, we have the guidance from RIAC recommendation #11: The state must formalize the RIO and associated responsibilities related to disaster recovery.

- RIO will sunset a little over a year from today. That is a given.
- How are the goals identified by General Orr, Mr. Miller, and RIAC recommendation to be realized?
- **How do we formalize the associated responsibilities of RIO**

RIO staff has been giving this considerable consideration which lead to more questions:

- During the next catastrophic disaster that affects the state, how will Iowa establish a vision for recovery?
- How will the state organize to identify recovery issues and find solutions?
- How does the state build transparency and accountability into the next long-term recovery process?
- How do we "sustain the investment" and lessons learned following disaster 2008 and the work of RIO?

We must acknowledge that the State already has a plan for disaster recovery. This is Part C of the Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan developed and maintained by HSEMD. How many people are familiar with this plan????

The scope, intent, and purpose of the plan are clearly stated:

1. Identify and designate the responsibilities, rules, policies, and missions of federal and state agencies, volunteer groups, and private organizations
2. Provide the necessary resources for a coordinated effort to efficiently deliver disaster recovery programs and services

3. Outline required actions and administrative procedures for state and local governments prior to and during a Governor's Proclamation of disaster Emergency or a Presidential Declaration.

The purpose of this tabletop exercise is to develop a state plan for long-term recovery following a major disaster.

This discussion-based exercise will also identify the communications process required to support recovery needs state-wide.

Participation:                      Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council Members  
   Others by Invitation Only

Save the Date:                      Thursday, June 24, 2010  
   8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location:                              State Emergency Operations Center

Facilitated by:                      Cathleen Atchison, Exercise Specialist, HSEMD  
General Dardis thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting concluded.